

Marijuana Policy Panel Meeting Minutes for March 24, 2004

The meeting was held in City Hall, Room 370 and was convened at approximately 6:10 p.m.

Members in attendance: Stark, Holden, Cunningham, Holcomb, Rasmussen, Mochizuki, Kigvamusud'Vashti, Nyrop, Licata, Satterberg

Members absent: Carr

Staff: Nuerenberg, Harper

Minutes from March 10, 2004 meeting were amended for spelling errors and accepted by panelists and approved unanimously.

Sub-Committee Report

Cunningham briefed committee on subcommittee actions which led to recommendations. Issues not discussed at sub-committee meeting had to do with tracking of data.

Discussion of Draft Reporting Criteria

Carr sees about 20% of the 500 cases. SPD may not need to see those or track them in some way. Mochizuki's unit handles 5% of the 500 cases.

Things that can't be reported on open cases:

1. Amount of Marijuana
2. Age of Suspect
3. Charge

County Prosecutor is able to report on many of the items panel requests. The County can provide information based on name of suspect/defendant.

Could SPD provide race/ethnicity statistics and information in reports? Possibly, if names were given.

Medical Marijuana issues:

1. Difficult to know what questions to ask defendant/suspect
2. Must have a foundation to label as such- documentation, etc.

Other Points:

- Most narcotics cases involving marijuana include some other drug; may only charge with marijuana possession even if primary reason for arrest/charge was a drug higher in priority
- Amount of marijuana isn't always documented
- Cases involving break and entry, robbery, etc. don't always come to narcotics

Public Comment

-SPD arrests have to be reported in some way, even if it's simple

-Mochizuki may be able to submit number of items submitted into evidence and cross reference number of items charged with those not charged

-Can warrants be obtained for medical marijuana arrests? Mochizuki doesn't know of any

Discussion of Draft Reporting Criteria

Additional points to consider when developing reporting criteria are: location of arrest (how to legally determine socio-economic background based on where individual lives?); does suspect qualify for public defense?

Proposed Reporting:

1. Mochizuki can provide number of case numbers and percent involving marijuana.
2. Mochizuki will work in tandem with KC Prosecutor.

3. Marijuana arrests can be forwarded to KC Prosecutor.
4. Carr will produce the remaining 70-80% of cases.
5. Panel will look at all 375 names/numbers.
6. Panelist prefer receiving case numbers

Next Steps

Holcomb will write the final draft of reporting criteria and submit to panel members via email. Reporting will begin April 1st. Holden, Holcomb, and Nyrop will assist staff in developing a reporting spreadsheet to be updated after each meeting.

The full panel will reconvene Wednesday, May 12 in City Hall Room 370 from 6:30-8 p.m. The first set of data will be presented by Carr, Mochizuki, and Satterberg at the May 12 meeting.